

## **King William Reservoir Permit Decision**

On October 1, 2002, Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades, Commander of the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced his decision to continue the permit process on the proposal to construct the 1,526 acre King William Reservoir on Cohoke Creek, a small tributary of the Pamunkey River in King William County, Virginia. This reservoir would supply 23 million gallons of water per day to the Lower Peninsula of Virginia. He determined that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs additional information to complete the permit process.

The City of Newport News applied to the Norfolk District in 1993 for this permit to build a reservoir to meet its long-term water supply projections. After the District recommended denial in March 2001, the permit application was elevated to the Division when Gov. James S. Gilmore III requested that the Division Commander make the decision.

After a long and thorough review, General Rhoades decided the project's purpose and need as submitted by the City of Newport News is valid and the project is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative to meet the water supply need based on current information. He has concerns about several issues and is requiring the satisfactory completion of three steps before a permit can be issued.

1. There must be coordination with all significant parties under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, including resolution of Native American issues.
2. The applicant must submit an updated wetland mitigation plan for review and approval by the Corps.
3. Virginia must determine whether the project is in compliance with its Coastal Zone Management Act.

General Rhoades asked for immediate resumption of the Cultural Resources Process to help determine the grounds for issuance or denial. He is committed to concluding the process as quickly and fairly as possible.

For more information click here: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/kwr/King-William-Reservoir.htm>